computer training institutes meeting the defined quality and service standards would be given accreditation for conducting certain specified courses viz. O(Foundation), A(Advance Diploma) B(Graduate) and C(Post-Graduate) levels computer courses. While the procedure for accreditation in Hindi or any other Indian language would be identical, no such application has been received so far. The preparation of instruction material and training of teachers is the responsibility of individual institutes.

(c) In addition to the 132 institutes already accredated, applications from another 136 institutes are under scrutiny.

Types of Hindi Keyboard Layouts

604. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the different types of keyboards layouts of Hindi which are use;

(b) whether there is any standard keyboard layout;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Hindi typists practice on both the mechanical keyboard layout and different computer keyboard layout for the same Devnagari script;

(d) if not, whether there is any plan to introduce mechanical keyboard on computers in Government Departments; and

(e) what would be the prices of mechanical typewriters *vis-a-vis* computers with the data processing facility in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There are mainly three different types of keyboard layouts in the use of Hindi.

(b) The Department of Electronics has proposed a standard layout for the multi lingual key board in 1986. This standard is being followed by a number of manufacturers.

(c) Yes, Sir. Practice, both on mechanical key board and computer key board, for the same devanagari script is required in case a Hindi typist uses both mechanical typewriters and computers.

(d) There is no plan to introduce mechanical keyboard on computers in Government Departments.

(e) The average price of the mechanical typewriters is Rs. 12,000/- approximately where as the price for computers with bilingual processsing capabilities with minimum configuration is Rs. 21,000/- approximtely. However, the computer has additional facilities such as storing of the documents, editing merging, duplication, automatic spelling checking etc. part from the processing capabilities which are not available in the mechanical typewriters.

Computerisation of Hindi Books in Dev-Nagari Script

605. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to computerise the libraries of Government Departments and their Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether any provision has been made for computerising Hindi books in Devanagari script; and

(c) if so, what is the time bound programme for such a mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As a part of computerisation of government departments serviced by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), large libraries are being given computer based support. There is no scheme of computerisation of libraries.

in the Undertakings under the government departments.

(b) and (c) NIC provides the government departments serviced by it the facility of bilingual computer hardware in Devanagari and English. This provision enables the library staff of the department to computerise Hindi books in Devanagari Script. NIC gives periodic training courses on Hindi computerisation for various levels of staff in government departments on a regular and continuing basis.

Impact of rice in prices of Newsprint

606. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STC has recently increased the price of standard newsprint and glazed newsprint by Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10000 per tonne respectively;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and justfication for the rise in the prices of newsprint;

(c) whether the rise in prices of newsprint will directly affect prices of newspapers and other periodicals;

(d) if so, whether the order to save the newspaper industry, particularly small and medium newspapers in the country, Government propose to review its decision; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir. The State Trading Corporation had only proposed to raise the prices of standard newsprint by Rs. 4,670 per MT and that of glazed newsprint by Rs. 10,410 per MT, which were not accepted.

(b) These increases were proposed by STC in the wake of the effects of the exchange rate adjustment.

(c) As in any other sphere, increase in prices of newsprint is bound to lead to some strain over newspapers.

(d) and (e) The matter has been resolved on mutually agreed cost-sharing basis between the newspapers industry and the STC.

Training programme for computer Scientists

607. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any training programme has been worked out for the computer scientists to make them aware of grammer and techniques of semantic interpretation as found in shastri sanskrit;

(b) if so, details of the curriculum and the centres identified for the same; and

(c) what is the scheme to introduce such a training module as part of formal B. Tech or B.E. programme in computer science and which technical institutions have been identified for offering such a subject as part of graduate curriculum of computer science?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Department of Electronics under its Technology Development for Indian Ianguages (TDIL) Programme has initiated a scheme for preparation of curriculum guidelines and course materials for introduction of Sanskrit Vyakaran, Nyaya, Mimamsa and Nirukta to linguists and Computer Scientists.

(b) The programme has been initiated at the following four Institutions—

(i) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi.

(ii) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati.

(iii) Gurukul Kangri University Hardwar.